

Chapter 2: Planning Process

2 Documenting the Planning Process

Documentation of the planning process, including public involvement, is required to meet FEMA's DMA 2000 (44CFR§201.4(c)(1) and §201.6(c)(1)). This section includes a description of the planning process used to develop this plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how all of the involved parties participated.

2.1.1 Description of the Planning Process

The Canyon County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving all of the organizations and agencies detailed in Section 1.0 of this document. The County's local coordinator contacted these organizations directly to invite their participation and schedule meetings of the planning committee. The planning process included 5 distinct phases which were in some cases sequential (step 1 then step 2) and in some cases intermixed (step 4 completed though out the process):

1. **Collection of Data** about the extent and periodicity of hazards in and around Canyon County. This included an area encompassing Ada, Canyon, Owyhee, Payette, Gem and Elmore counties to insure a robust dataset for making inferences about hazards in Canyon County specifically.
2. **Field Observations and Estimations** about wildfire risks including fuels assessments, juxtaposition of structures and infrastructure to wildland fuels, access, and potential treatments by trained wildfire specialists.
3. **Mapping** of data relevant to wildfire control and treatments, structures, resource values, infrastructure, fire prone landscapes, and related data.
4. **Facilitation of Public Involvement** from the formation of the planning committee, to a public mail survey, news releases, public meetings, public review of draft documents, and acceptance of the final plan by the signatory representatives.
5. **Analysis and Drafting of the Report** to integrate the results of the planning process, providing ample review and integration of committee and public input, followed by acceptance of the final document.

2.2 The Planning Team

Planning efforts were led by the Project Co-Directors, Dr. William E. Schlosser, of Northwest Management, Inc. and Mr. Toby R. Brown, B.S. Dr. Schlosser's education includes 4 degrees in natural resource management (A.S. geology; B.S. forest and range management; M.S. natural resource economic & finance; Ph.D. environmental science and regional planning). Mr. Brown holds a bachelor's degree in Forest Resource Management. Leading efforts from Canyon County, was Todd Herrera, Canyon County Disaster Services Coordinator, who organized meetings, facilitated information management, and coordinated many activities associated with the development of the plans.

They led a team of resource professionals that included city and rural fire protection, federal agencies, resource management professionals, hazard mitigation experts, and local city employees.

The planning team met with many residents of the county during the inspections of communities, infrastructure, and hazard abatement assessments. This methodology, when coupled with the other approaches in this process, worked adequately to integrate a wide spectrum of observations and interpretations about the project.

The planning philosophy employed in this project included the open and free sharing of information with interested parties. Information from federal and state agencies and county departments was integrated into the database of knowledge used in this project. Meetings with the committee were held throughout the planning process to facilitate a sharing of information between cooperators.

When the public meetings were held, many of the committee members were in attendance and shared their support and experiences with the planning process and their interpretations of the results.

2.2.1 Multi-Jurisdictional Participation

CFR requirement §201.6(a)(3) calls for multi-jurisdictional planning in the development of hazard mitigation plans which impact multiple jurisdictions. This Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan is applicable to the following Jurisdictions:

- Canyon County, Idaho
- City of Nampa
- City of Caldwell
- City of Middleton
- City of Notus
- City of Wilder
- City of Parma
- City of Melba
- City of Greenleaf

All of these jurisdictions were represented on the planning committee, in public meetings, and participated in the development of hazard profiles, risk assessments, and mitigation measures. The monthly planning committee meetings were the primary venue for authenticating the planning record. However, additional input was gathered from each jurisdiction in a combination of the following ways:

- Planning committee leadership visits to scheduled municipality public meetings (e.g., County Commission meetings, City Hall meetings) where planning updates were provided and information was exchanged.
- One-on-one visits between the planning committee leadership and the representatives of the municipality (e.g. meetings with County Commissioners or City Councils in chambers).
- Special meetings at each jurisdiction by the planning committee leadership requested by the municipality involving elected officials (Mayors, County Commissioners, Assessor, and Sheriff), appointed officials, municipality employees, local volunteers (e.g. fire district volunteers), business community representatives, and local citizenry.
- Written correspondence was provided monthly between the planning committee leadership and each municipality updating the cooperators in the planning process, making requests for information, and facilitating feedback.

Planning committee leadership (referenced above) included: Todd Herrera, Canyon County Disaster Services Coordinator and Dr. William E. Schlosser, Toby Brown, and Tera King all of

Northwest Management, Inc.; and Bill Moore Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. Coordinator.

Like other rural areas of Idaho and the USA, Canyon County's human resources have many demands put on them in terms of time and availability. Although many of the elected officials (County Commissioners and Nampa and Caldwell Mayors) serve in a full-time capacity. Many of the smaller towns and cities elected officials serve in a part time capacity. Many of them have other employment and serve the community through a convention of community service. Recognizing this, many of the jurisdictions decided to identify a representative from the jurisdiction to cooperate on the planning committee and then report back to the remainder of the organization on the process and serve as a conduit between the planning committee and the jurisdiction. This was the case with the Canyon County Commissioners where Todd Herrera attended each planning committee meeting as a regular attendee and reported back to the Commissioners.

At the city level, all of the City Mayor offices were represented in a variety of ways. Most commonly, the Mayor of a municipality appointed a representative from the municipality to provide this representation on the committee meetings. In cases where the mayor was unable to attend, the planning committee leadership provided communications and feedback with the municipality directly to insure the multi-jurisdictional planning necessitated by this process.

2.3 Public Involvement

Public involvement in this plan was made a priority from the inception of the project. There were a number of ways that public involvement was sought and facilitated. In some cases this led to members of the public providing information and seeking an active role in protecting their own homes and businesses, while in other cases it led to the public becoming more aware of the process without becoming directly involved in the planning process.

2.3.1 News Releases

Under the auspices of the Canyon County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Planning Committee, news releases were submitted to area newspapers and flyers were distributed around communities by committee members.

2.3.1.1 Newspaper Articles

Committee and public meeting announcements were published in the local newspaper ahead of each meeting.

2.3.1.2 Flyers

The following is an example of the flyer that was distributed to committee members and area agencies. These flyers were also distributed around communities by Northwest Management, Inc. and committee members.



Canyon County, Idaho Wildfire Mitigation Plan Public Meetings!



Caldwell: March 29, 7:00 PM, Caldwell Police Department - Community Room, 110 S. 5th St.
Nampa: March 30, 7:00 PM, Hispanic Cultural Center, 315 Stampede Dr.
Melba: March 31, 12:30 PM, Melba Senior Center, 115 Baseline Rd.
Notus: March 31, 7:00 PM, Notus Community Center, next to Post Office on 1st St.

These public meetings will address the **Wildfire Mitigation Plan** for our communities. These meetings are open to the public and will include slideshow presentations from hazard mitigation specialists working on the Canyon County Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Public input is being sought in order to better frame the County's efforts of hazard mitigation treatments, fire district resource enhancements, and public land management.

This meeting will last for approximately 1.5 hours.

Please attend and participate!

Discuss **YOUR** priorities for how our communities can best mitigate these risks.

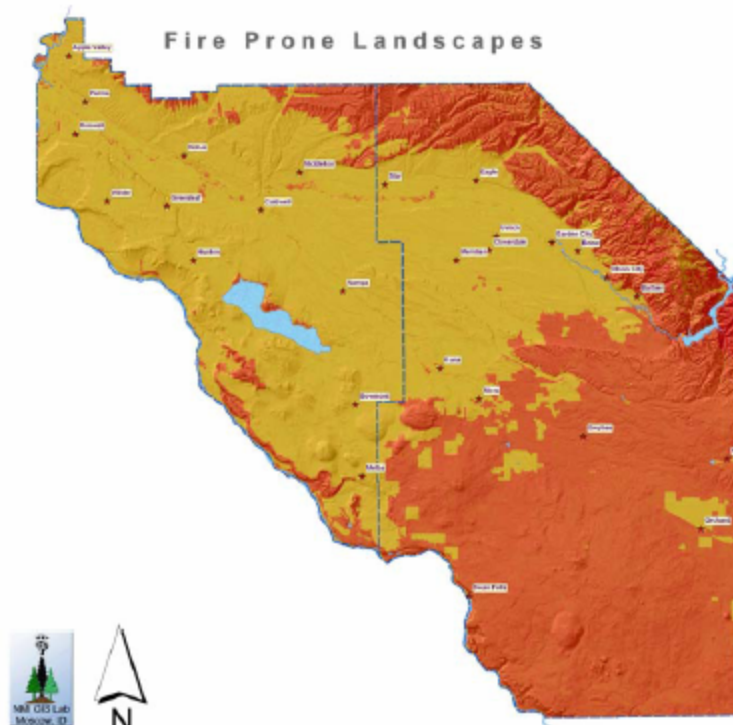
These meetings will last for approximately 1.5 hours and include refreshments, a slideshow, information on the planning process, and schedules for completion. **We want your input.**

Topics of discussion include:

- ◆ Wildfires
- ◆ Fire Fighting Resources
- ◆ Fire Districts
- ◆ Infrastructure
- ◆ Fuels Treatments

For more information on Hazard Mitigation Plan projects in Canyon County, contact your County Commissioners, Bill Moore at the Southwest Idaho RC&D office at 208-888-1890 ext. 4, or William E. Schlosser at the Northwest Management, Inc., office in Moscow at 208-883-4488.

We'll see you there!



2.3.2 Public Mail Survey

In order to collect a broad base of perceptions about wildland fire and individual risk factors of homeowners in Canyon County, a mail survey was conducted. Using a state and county database of landowners in Canyon County, homeowners from the Wildland-Urban Interface surrounding each community were identified. In order to be included in the database, individuals were selected that own property and have a dwelling in Canyon County, as well as a mailing address in Canyon County. This database created a list of unique names, to which was affixed a random number that contributed to the probability of being selected for the public mail survey. A total of 230 landowners meeting the above criteria were selected.

The public mail survey developed for this project has been used in the past by Northwest Management, Inc., during the execution of other WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plans. The survey used The Total Design Method (Dillman 1978) as a model to schedule the timing and content of letters sent to the selected recipients. Copies of each cover letter, mail survey, and communication are included in Appendix III.

The first in the series of mailing was sent July 9, 2004, and included a cover letter, a survey, and an offer of receiving a custom GIS map of the area of their selection in Canyon County if they would complete and return the survey. The free map incentive was tied into assisting their community and helping their interests by participating in this process. Each letter also informed residents about the planning process. A return self-addressed envelope was included in each packet. A postcard reminder was sent to the non-respondents on July 17, 2004, encouraging their response. A final mailing, with a revised cover letter pleading with them to participate, was sent to non-respondents on July 25, 2004.

Surveys were returned during the months of July, August, September, October, and November. A total of 71 residents responded to the survey (as of April 11, 2005). No surveys were returned as undeliverable, and four responded that they no longer live in the area. The effective response rate for this survey was 31%. Statistically, this response rate allows the interpretation of all of the response variables significantly at the 95% confidence level.

2.3.2.1 Survey Results

A summary of the survey's results will be presented here and then referred back to during the ensuing discussions on the need for various treatments, education, and other information.

All of the respondents have a home in Canyon County, and 86% consider this their primary residence. About 27% of the respondents were from the Parma area, 23% were from the Middleton area, 17% were from the Nampa area, 17% from Caldwell, 8% from Wilder, 4% from Notus, 2% from Melba, with the remainder from Canyon County landowners living in communities just outside Canyon County borders.

Almost all of the respondents (98%) correctly identified that they have emergency telephone 911 services in their area. Respondents were asked to identify if their home is protected by a rural or city fire district. Of the respondents, 88% correctly identified they live in an area protected by a rural or city fire district. Approximately 12% responded they do not have a fire district covering their home, when in fact they do.

Respondents were asked to indicate the type of roofing material covering the main structure of their home. Approximately 79% of respondents indicated their homes were covered with a composite material (asphalt shingles). About 5% indicated their home was covered with a metal (e.g., aluminum, tin) roofing material. Roughly 16% of the respondents indicated they have a

wooden roofing material such as shakes or shingles. The additional 1% of respondents had a variety of combustible and non-combustible materials indicated.

Residents were asked to evaluate the proximity of trees within certain distances of their homes. Often, the density of trees around a home is an indicator of increased fire risk. The results are presented in Table 2.1

Table 2.1 Survey responses indicating the proximity of trees to homes.			
Number of Trees	Within 250 feet of your home	Within 75 feet of your home	
None	0%		5%
Less than 10	62%		71%
Between 10 and 25	29%		22%
More than 25	9%		3%

Approximately 95% of those returning the survey indicated they have a lawn surrounding their home. Of these individual home sites, 98% indicated they keep this lawn green through the fire season.

The average driveway length of the respondents was approximately 301 feet long, from their main road to their parking area. Roughly 8% of the respondents had a driveway over ¼ miles long. Of these homes with lengthy driveways, roughly 35% have turnouts allowing two vehicles to pass each other in the case of an emergency. Approximately 77% of all homeowners indicated they have an alternative escape route, with the remaining 23% indicating only one-way-in and one-way-out.

Nearly all respondents (99%) indicated they have some type of tools to use against a wildfire that threatens their home. Table 2.2 summarizes these responses.

Table 2.2. Percent of homes with indicated firefighting tools in Canyon County.
95% – Hand tools (shovel, Pulaski, etc.)
8% – Portable water tank
5% – Stationery water tank
29% – Pond, lake, or stream water supply close
21% – Water pump and fire hose
10% – Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, skidder, etc.)

Roughly 14% of the respondents in Canyon County indicated they have someone in their household trained in wildland firefighting. Approximately 11% indicated someone in the household had been trained in structural firefighting. However, it is important to note that these questions did not specify a standard nor did it refer to how long ago the training was received.

A couple of questions in the survey related to on-going fire mitigation efforts households may be implementing. Respondents were asked if they conduct a periodic fuels reduction program near their home sites, such as grass or brush burning. Approximately 52% answered affirmative to this question, while 27% responded that livestock (cattle, horses, and sheep) graze the grasses and forbs around their home sites.

Respondents were asked to complete a fuel hazard rating worksheet to assess their home's fire risk rating. An additional column titled "results" has been added to the table, showing the percent of respondents circling each rating (Table 2.3).

Circle the ratings in each category that best describes your home.

Table 2.3. Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet		Rating	Results
Fuel Hazard	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)	1	78%
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)	2	22%
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)	3	0%
Slope Hazard	Mild slopes (0-5%)	1	80%
	Moderate slope (6-20%)	2	18%
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)	3	2%
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)	4	0%
Structure Hazard	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials	1	60%
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material	3	0%
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material	7	40%
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials	10	0%
Additional Factors	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges	+2	Average -2.4 pts
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence	+3	
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds	+4	
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks	-3	
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire districts, dozers)	-3	

Calculating your risk

Values below are the average response value to each question.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \text{Fuel hazard} & \underline{1.2} & \times \text{Slope Hazard } \underline{1.2} = \underline{1.44} \\
 \text{Structural hazard} & + & \underline{4.7} \\
 \text{Additional factors} & (+ \text{ or } -) & \underline{-2.4} \\
 \text{Total Hazard Points} & = & \underline{3.7}
 \end{array}$$

Table 2.4. Percent of respondents in each risk category as determined by the survey respondents.

00% – Extreme Risk = 26 + points
01% – High Risk = 16–25 points
25% – Moderate Risk = 6–15 points
74% – Low Risk = 6 or less points

Maximum household rating form score was 20 points, as assessed by the homeowners. These numbers were compared to observations made by field crews trained in wildland firefighting. These results indicate that for the most part, these indications are only slightly lower than the risk rating assigned by the “professionals”. Anecdotal evidence would indicate that Canyon County landowners involved in this survey have a more realistic view of wildfire risk than the landowners in other Idaho counties where these questions have been asked.

Finally, respondents were asked “if offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free, or low cost, one-day training seminar designed to teach homeowners in the wildland–urban interface how to improve the defensible space surrounding your home and adjacent outbuildings?” A significant number of the respondents, 35%, indicated a desire to participate in this type of training.

Homeowners were also asked, “How do you feel Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Mitigation projects should be funded in the areas surrounding homes, communities, and infrastructure such as power lines and major roads?” Responses are summarized in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5. Public Opinion of Wildfire Mitigation Funding Preferences.

	Mark the box that best applies to your preference		
	100% Public Funding	Cost-Share (Public & Private)	Privately Funded (Owner or Company)
Home Defensibility Projects	31%	20%	48%
Community Defensibility Projects	51%	29%	20%
Infrastructure Projects Roads, Bridges, Power Lines, Etc.	65%	16%	20%

2.3.2.2 Committee Meetings

The following list of people who participated in the planning committee meetings, volunteered time, or responded to elements of the Canyon County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan’s preparation:

- Andy OgdenIdaho Fish and Game
- Arnold WaldemerWilder Rural Fire Protection District
- Bill MooreSouthwest RC&D
- Brad TroskyMiddleton Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Service
- Carmen BoegerNampa Dispatch Center
- Doug AmickWilder Rural Fire Protection District
- Doug BrownIdaho Fire Chief’s Association
- Doug RosinKuna Fire District
- Elaine JohnsonUS Fish and Wildlife Service
- Fred MouldCanyon County LEPC
- Holly LefevreBureau of Land Management
- Jack HellbuschParma Fire Department
- James CookParma Fire Department
- Jeff BohrNRCS
- John McGeeNorthwest Management, Inc.
- Ken HomikNorthwest Management, Inc.

- Kevin Courtney.....Star Joint Fire Protection District
- Lary D. Silver.....Farm Service Agency
- Lorraine Elfering.....Canyon County
- Mark WendelsdorfCaldwell Rural Fire Protection District
- Richard Davies.....Nampa Fire Department
- Richard FarnerMelba Fire Department
- Roger Sharp.....Canyon County
- Russ Schrall.....Upper Deer Flat Fire Department
- Tera DumanNorthwest Management, Inc.
- Todd A. Fenzl.....US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wayne DavisMelba Fire Department

2.3.2.2.1 June 2, 2004: Canyon County Committee Meeting

Caldwell NRCS Office

Miscellaneous Business –

Send electronic copy of community assessments to e-mail list. Fire Departments have received resources and capabilities surveys, but we need to send a copy to Elaine at Deer Flat NWR because they have significant firefighting resources. Also send her a copy of attendance and e-mail list because she might have some contacts for training instructors for fire departments and some other info that the county would be interested in having.

Lorraine Elfering is going to make request to obtain cadastral data ASAP. Also contact Lorraine to get dates of Fire Chiefs Association meeting, which NMI needs to attend.

Need to establish a good list of contacts for all fire depts.

Discussion –

Resource and Capability Enhancements: (Parma Fire was only dept in attendance)

- Communications – no money to buy enough radios for all dept to be compatible with BLM. Parma, Wilder, and Melba have major problems with dead spots. Recent upgrading has crippled the communication abilities of dispatch to reach remote areas. They need sub-repeaters set up around the county to alleviate this problem. Right now they are relying heavily on personal cell phones.
- Water Resources – Parma Fire has access to water, but NMI needs to find out what the issues are in other areas.
- Building Codes – county is experiencing a lot of growth, but efforts to curb housing designs, etc. have been unsuccessful. Education of homeowners is the best way to reach homeowners. Fish and Wildlife had funding at one point to hire a Fire Education Tech., but the money was taken away. There are no other organized fire education programs that the committee is aware of.
- Roads – Access is a huge issue throughout the county (same as Ada). Fire Depts. do inspect new driveways and turnarounds to see if they are adequate for equipment; however, getting personnel trained in such codes is difficult and expensive.
- Recreation – Deer Flat NWR enforces no fires or smoking bans. They also have created a 10' fire break around the refuge and installed gates at critical access points. They are attempting to get funding to create a greenbelt around the refuge as well. Deer Flat has a Fire Mgmt plan that Elaine will send to NMI.

- Training/Retention – typical problems associated with not having enough volunteers for rural departments. Smaller depts. have major problems with getting instructors or being able to attend training classes in other areas. The BLM is not providing enough funding for small depts. to meet their requirements (particularly radios). Elaine said that she knew of an FMO that may be able to provide some training classes.

Potential Mitigation Projects:

- Set up a regional study regarding communications issue instead of piecemealing funding to each county or dept.
- Education – need to establish good programs. Defensible space is a key issue in this type of environment. What are insurance companies doing or what can they do?

Next Meeting: July 14 (Wed) @ 1:30 pm @ NRCS office

2.3.2.2.2 July 14, 2004 Committee Meeting

NCS Office, Caldwell

Meeting Kick-off

No fire departments in attendance.

Bill Moore would like a copy of the public survey for his files.

Synopsis of Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning by JMcG and KH

- What is it, what is the history behind these planning efforts
- Where have we been and where are we going- continued review of community assessments, development of resources and capabilities, stepping stone for funding sources.

Update on public participation, including mailing of surveys and press releases regarding the plans.

Resources and Capabilities: No surveys have been returned to date. JMcG needs to make initial contacts and develop contact list ASAP.

Review of Infrastructure, protection, and WUI maps. Need clarification of the definition of WUI map. All map legends need to be descriptive enough for the average lay person of the street can understand the information presented without explanation.

- Include Chevron and NW pipeline gas lines.
- Include repeater sites.
- Map LPG plant in Star.

Elaine Johnson of Fish and Wildlife discussed refuge fire management. Currently, the refuge does not have any formal mutual aid agreements with the surrounding departments. BLM has protection on a fee basis, however rural departments typically respond to refuge fires prior to BLM, and sometimes before refuge personnel are aware of the fire. Currently, there is no means by which the refuge can compensate the rural departments for their efforts. Question-

why can't the rural departments simply bill the refuge? The refuge does not have any qualified firefighters at this time. This may be a recommendation in the plan.

Elaine Johnson will provide information of refuge fuel treatments for the past years. She will also provide historic fires on the refuge, dating to 1941.

Review of time line for Fire Plan- Next committee meeting to be scheduled by McGee. The meeting will be prior to one of the three public meetings, which are scheduled for August 17, 18 and 19. Meetings will likely be held in Nampa, Parma, and at the Refuge. Exact times and locations are to be determined.

Re-send community assessments to all parties.

List of Fire Departments in Canyon County that need surveys. Initial contacts need to be made.

2.3.2.3 Public Meetings

Public meetings were held during the planning process, as an integral component to the planning process. It was the desire of the planning committee, and the Canyon County Commissioners to integrate the public's input to the development of the fire mitigation plan.

Formal public meetings were scheduled on March 29, 2005, at Caldwell, Idaho, on March 30, 2005, at Nampa, Idaho, and on March 31, 2005, at Melba and Notus, Idaho. The purpose of these meetings was to share information on the planning process with a broadly representative cross section of Canyon County landowners. All of the meetings had wall maps posted in the meeting rooms with many of the analysis results summarized specifically for the risk assessments, location of structures, fire protection, and related information. The formal portion of the presentations included a PowerPoint presentation made by Toby Brown from Northwest Management, Inc. During his presentations, comments from committee members, fire chiefs, and others were encouraged in an effort to engage the audience in a discussion.

It was made clear to all in attendance that their input was welcome and encouraged, as specific treatments had not yet been decided, nor had the risk assessment been completed. Attendees were told that they could provide oral comment during these meetings, they could provide written comment to the meetings, or they could request more information in person to discuss the plan. In addition, attendees were told they would have an opportunity to review the draft plan prior to its completion to further facilitate their comments and input.

The formal presentations lasted approximately 1.5 hours and included many questions and comments from the audience. Following the meetings, many discussions continued with the committee members and the general public discussing specific areas, potential treatments, the risk analysis, and other topics.

Attendance at the public meetings included 1 individual each at the Caldwell and Nampa meetings, 72 in Melba, and 4 at Notus. The following are comments, questions or suggestions from the meetings:

2.3.2.3.1 Caldwell Public Meeting

March 29, 2005 – Caldwell Police Department

Attendees: Elaine Johnson
Tera Duman
Toby Brown

Toby Brown gave an abbreviated version of the slide show for committee member, Elaine Johnson from the FWS focusing on issues that she would be more interested in or would have more information on. She had several questions regarding how and why the plans were being done and how the funding for projects worked.

The Fish and Wildlife Service maintains all islands in the Boise River from the Canyon-Ada County area all the way to Brownlee Dam. Fire ignitions on these islands and other wildlife areas are responded to on a case by case basis. Some areas are allowed to burn naturally, while others are aggressively fought due to irreplaceable wildlife resources, recreation facilities, or other structures, etc.

The FWS was awarded \$5,000 to the Deer Flat area through the Fire Assistance Program. The FWS often forms partnerships with other entities for hazardous fuel reduction projects and wildlife habitat improvement. So far, they have implemented projects like pulling out Russian olive trees along the river and cheatgrass eradication along roadways. One of their proposed projects will include developing a green strip along the northwestern corner of Deer Flat Reservoir. Developing dry hydrant sites might be a future project they will look at doing.

2.3.2.3.2 Melba Public Meeting

March 31, 2005 – Melba Senior Citizens Center

Attendees: Toby Brown
Tera Duman
Bill Moore
Approximately 72 senior citizens

Toby began by introducing the NMI and Bill Moore from the RC&D. He presented the power point presentation to a fairly large group of senior citizens during their lunch period. Although there were no specific questions or comments during the presentation, a few from the audience made a point to talk to NMI staff after the meal and presentation were over. One comment that came up several times was their support of using grazing as a way to keep the fuel loading down. Other comments included not having enough volunteers and training for the fire department and being able to burn tumbleweeds, etc. without a lot of hassle from the fire department or other agencies.

2.3.2.3.3 Notus Public Meeting

March 31, 2005 – Notus Community Center

Attendees: Toby Brown
Tera Duman
Martin Galvin
Jim Martell
Mike? (Middleton and Notus FD)

The group arrived a little early and began an in depth discussion about fire related problems in the Notus area. Rather than interrupt the conversation, Toby asked specific questions regarding the Mitigation Plan and explained different aspects of the plan. After about a 1 ½ hour discussion, Toby presented an extremely abbreviated slideshow due to the fact that most of the presentation topics had already been discussed at length. Some of the issues discussed included:

- Weed reduction projects would go a long way to prevent fires. Weeds, particularly tumbleweeds, tend to gather in ditches, etc and cause major fire hazards.

- Middleton Fire – needs trucks and an equipment storage station
- Middleton – subdivisions abutting BLM ground need fuels reduction work
- Endangered plants affect the ability of rural departments to fight fire. They have been told by local wildlife officials that they will not be allowed to enter areas that are believed to contain certain plants. In order to deal with this issue ahead of time they need an action plan detailed in the fire plan and other protocol.
- There is very little water available in the north end of the County. Development of some kind of water resource would be helpful.
- Canyon County is also having issues with poor access routes to homes (i.e. too narrow roads, no turnouts or turn around areas, low overhangs, and sometimes steep grades).
- Local fire departments have had some issues with fires on empty lots or drainages that can and have carried fire through the urban areas.
- Kingsbury Area is a very high hazard area.
- There is less susceptibility to fire as the urban areas grow; however, the value lost due to even small fires has increased significantly.
- Areas that have been farmed historically aren't being farmed anymore due to the rising cost. This is creating a huge fire hazard as these fields are overgrown with weeds and tall grasses. The area north of Middleton and extending towards Ada County are most pronounced.
- Canyon County fire districts have good communications with other agencies and with Ada County.
- Currently, County is trying to get something through the system on standardizing rural addressing (i.e. #'s aren't big enough to see from the road, enhanced 911).
- Dispatch and departments do not know all of the names of the new subdivisions, which is causing some communication and response problems.
- People are not paying taxes, particularly in new developments, which is severely hurting the fire departments

2.4 Documented Review Process

Review of sections of this document was conducted by the planning committee during the planning process as maps, summaries, and written assessments were completed. These individuals included fire mitigation specialists, firefighters, planners, elected officials, and others involved in the coordination process. Preliminary findings were discussed at the public meetings, where comments were collected and facilitated.

The results of these formal and informal reviews were integrated into a DRAFT Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan. This plan was given to members of the planning committee (including the Canyon County Commissioners and the Southwest Idaho RC&D) on October 20, 2005.

Review of the DRAFT Wildfire Mitigation Plan by the Canyon County All-Hazard Mitigation Committee is scheduled to be made until the completion of the All Hazard Mitigation planning process.

2.5 Continued Public Involvement

Canyon County is dedicated to involving the public directly in review and updates of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Canyon County Commissioners, through the All Hazard Mitigation Committee are responsible for the annual review and update of the plan as recommended in the "Recommendations" section of this document.

The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the Plan annually on the anniversary of the adoption of this plan, at the meeting of the County Commissioners. Copies of the Plan will be catalogued and kept at all of the appropriate agencies in the county. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized. Instructions on how to obtain copies of the Plan will be made available on the County's Internet web site. The Plan also includes the address and phone number of the county Planning Division, responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan.

In addition, copies of the plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the county website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments and concerns.

A public meeting will also be held as part of each annual evaluation or when deemed necessary by the All Hazard Mitigation Committee. The meetings will provide the public a forum for which they can express its concerns, opinions, or ideas about the Plan. The County Public Information Officer will be responsible for using county resources to publicize the annual public meetings and maintain public involvement through the public access channel, webpage, and newspapers.